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MAPPER: A Personal Computer Map Projection Tool

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration Office of Management Scientific and Technical Information Program

Contents

Summary		1
Introduction		1
Installation .		1
Startup		2
Primary		3
Secondary		10
Acknowledge	ments	13
Appendix A	Coordinate System	14
Appendix B	Explanation of Mapper	15
Appendix C	General Information	17
Appendix D	Flight-Line Files	18
Appendix E	Program Files	19
Appendix F	Projection Source File	21
Appendix G	Sample Maps	26
Index		33

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Summary

MAPPER is a set of software tools designed to let users create and manipulate map projections on a personal computer (PC). The capability exists to generate five popular map projections. These include azimuthal, cylindrical, mercator, lambert, and sinusoidal projections. Data for projections are contained in five coordinate databases at various resolutions. MAPPER is managed by a system of pull-down windows. This interface allows the user to intuitively create, view, and export maps to other platforms.

Introduction

Mapping programs and coordinate databases were developed by the Observational Science Branch for use in scientific instrument development flights on aircraft. A subset of these programs was initially written for an aircraft UNIX microcomputer. Maps were displayed along with real-time position data. Interest in maps then carried over to pre and post flight data analysis. MAPPER was then created for the PC. The programs contained herein make up a general purpose package for map generation. Maps can be displayed directly on a PC monitor as well as exported to a low cost CAD program for further manipulation. At the present time, translation is only supplied for DesignCAD, which is produced by American Small Business Computers of Pryor, Oklahoma. Once in DesignCAD, further translations can be made along with output to a multitude of printers and plotters. The map coordinate databases supplied are of various resolutions; catering to the needs of the Wallops Flight Facility. Other databases of higher resolution and larger area are available and will be incorporated when needed.

Installation

These programs must run from a hard disk with at least 4 megabytes free. This is due to the immense size of two of the map databases.

To install MAPPER, place floppy diskette number 1 in any one of your floppy drives. While logged onto your hard disk, type:

A:INSTALL A: C:

This assumes your floppy drive is A and your hard disk is C. If this is not the case, simply change the command line with the appropriate drive information.

The installation procedure requires two floppy diskettes. All programs and databases have been packed, so unpacking will take a few minutes...be patient!

It is suggested that your AUTOEXEC.BAT file contain the statement:

GRAPHICS

GRAPHICS.COM should also exist...check your DOS directory. This will allow you to make a crude copy on your printer from the screen plot by typing Ctrl PrtSc.

Startup

Projec is a user interface program used to run MAPPER and all of its utilities. **Projec** is designed with pull-down windows to ease user interaction with MAPPER.

At the DOS prompt, type projec <ENTER> (see Figure 1).

PROJEC Version 2.0 Steven A. Bailey NASA October 1992

Figure 1. Author title window.

Strike any key to enter the startup window.

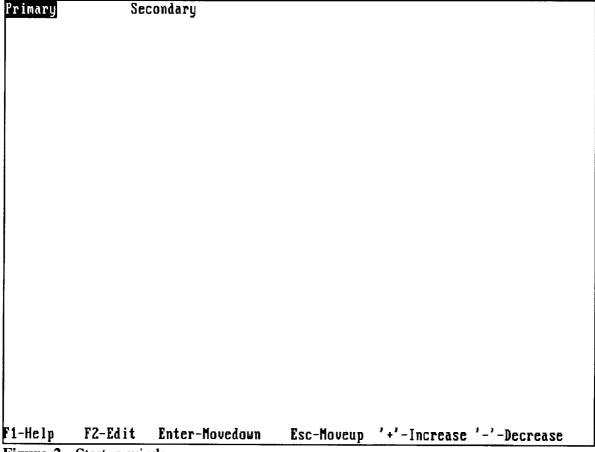


Figure 2. Startup window.

As evident, the main window is quite unassuming (see Figure 2). At the top of the screen are 2 categories. By using the left- and right-arrow keys, the highlighted bar moves from category to category. Also, by striking the letter key for the first letter of each category word, the highlighted bar moves directly to that category.

At the bottom of the screen are 5 function key descriptors. The highlight bar does not move here. These function keys are used throughout all windows for various purposes. Since we are now in the startup window, only the F1 key applies. Move to either of the 2 categories at the top of the screen and strike the F1 key. You should see a help window appear, explaining the particular category you have chosen.

Primary

The left-most section of the startup window is called **Primary**. This is where the most used parameters dealing with **MAPPER** are found. To activate the **Primary** window, simply strike the **ENTER** key (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Primary window.

As evident, there are 11 parameters in the **Primary** window. Parameters shown in **blue** text indicate that you must move farther down to a subsequent window using the **ENTER** key. Parameters shown in **yellow** text mean you can edit using the **F2** key. Finally, parameters shown in **black** text mean you can change these variables using the + and - keys. For **black** parameters, the **PgUp**, **PgDn**, and **Home** keys can also be used. **PgUp** and **PgDn** increase and decrease, respectively, by a factor of 10. The **Home** key sets **black** parameters to their initial or **Home** state. To remember how parameters are color-coded, look at the 5 function key descriptors at the bottom of the screen. The **F1** key displays help (see Figure 9 for an example).

Map database

this defines the database file you use to create a map projection (see Figure 4). At present, there are 5 static databases and 1 user-defined database to choose from:

World

a general-purpose database that contains low-resolution geographic data of the entire world.

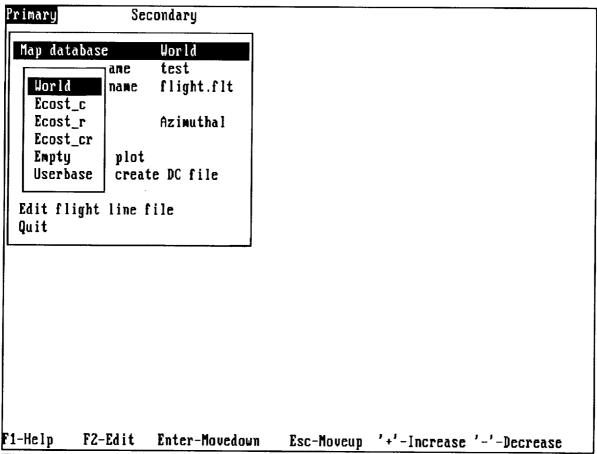


Figure 4. Database window.

Ecost c a high-resolution database containing Eastern U.S. coastal bays and shoreline. Ecost_r a high-resolution database containing Eastern U.S. rivers. Ecost_cr a high-resolution database containing Eastern U.S. coastal bays, shoreline, and rivers. **Empty** an empty database used when only a lat., lon. grid of an area is needed. Userbase an editable parameter for entering a userdefined database created when using the Create database from flight line found under the Secondary category.

Output filename

this defines the name of your output file (see Figure 3).

Flight filename

this defines the name of the datafile you use to plot a flight line with your map. This name must be different from your output filename (see Figure 3).

Grid

this defines your map grid in degrees of latitude and longitude. A grid entry of 0 for latitude and 0 for longitude produces a map with NO grid lines (see Figure 5).

Projection

this defines 1 of 5 types of map projections available (see Figure 6):

Azimuthal

used when true direction and distance are needed from a center point. It is commonly used for areas up to and including 1 hemisphere. Any center point on the globe is valid, making this projection the most NOT **THIS** useful. DO USE **PROJECTION** UNLESS Α MATH COPROCESSOR IS INSTALLED IN YOUR COMPUTER.

Mercator

used for navigation purposes, because a course of constant bearing can be drawn between 2 points that maintains directional accuracy. This projection becomes very distorted above 85 degrees North or below 85 degrees South latitude.

Lambert

used when the "right shape" is needed. It is only good for areas with an East-West extent of temperate latitudes. The U.S. is a good example. It is valid between 10 and 80 degrees North and South latitudes.

Sinusoidal

used for small areas, or those of a North-South extent. Can also be used to show the entire Earth or its quadrants.

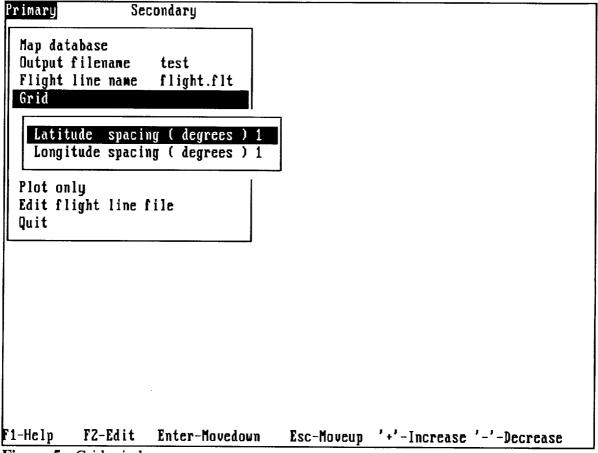


Figure 5. Grid window.

Cylindrical -

map area corresponds with area found on projection. It is most commonly used in areas near the Equator. It is valid for any part of the globe, but the poles do become distorted.

Coordinates

this defines the map scale the user creates for a given projection type. When using the Azimuthal projection, choose the Azimuthal coordinates sub-window. When using a projection other than azimuthal, choose the All other coordinates sub-window. Remember to follow the convention of the cartesian coordinate system (see Figures 7 and 8).

Center latitude

this is the center point in latitude needed when using the Azimuthal projection.

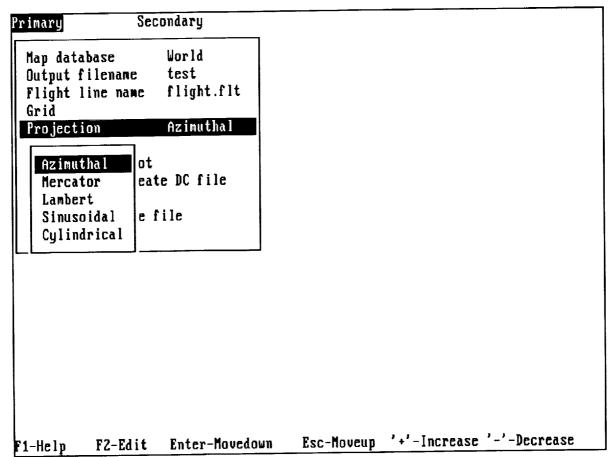


Figure 6. Projection window.

Center longitude -	needed when using the Azimuthal projection.
Range from center -	this is the range in nautical miles from the center point that the Azimuthal map projection will span.
Min. latitude -	this is the minimum latitude needed when using all projections except Azimuthal.
Max. latitude	this is the maximum latitude needed when using all projections except Azimuthal .

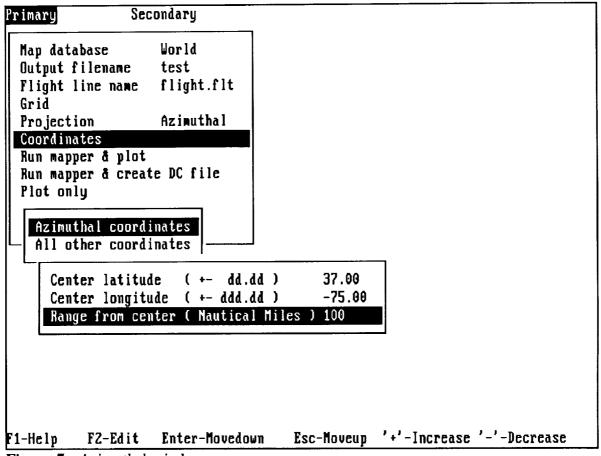


Figure 7. Azimuthal window.

Min. longitude - this is the minimum longitude needed

when using all projections except

Azimuthal.

Max. longitude - this is the maximum longitude

needed when using all projections

except Azimuthal.

Run mapper & plot - this runs MAPPER, creates a plot file, and then

plots that file to the screen (see Figure 3).

Run mapper & create DC file - this runs MAPPER and creates a DesignCAD file

from the MAPPER output (see Figure 3).

Plot only - this only plots a screen plot file which was

previously created during a call to Run mapper &

plot (see Figure 10).

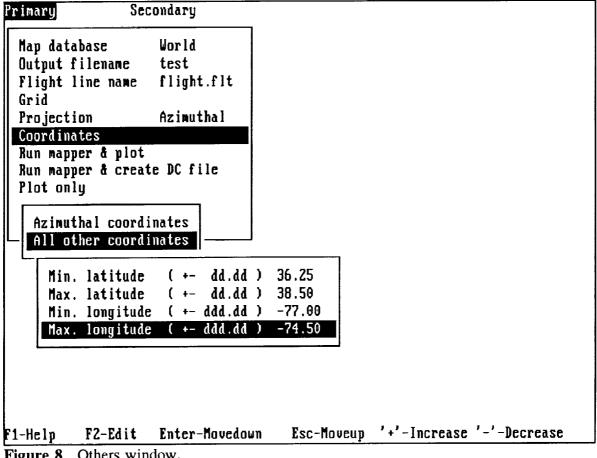


Figure 8. Others window.

Edit flight line file

this is used to edit the ASCII flight-line file. The editor is a public-domain Wordstar clone. You must have a filename entered in the Flight filename parameter before calling this editor (see Figure 3).

Quit

this is used to quit or exit from PROJEC. You are then returned to the point at which you called PROJEC (see Figure 3).

Secondary

The right-most section of the startup window is called Secondary. This is where the least used parameters dealing with MAPPER are found. Strike the ENTER key to find which window follows Secondary (see Figure 10).

Primary Sec	ondary
Map database Output filename Flight line name Grid	
Projection Coordinates Run mapper & plot Run mapper & creat Plot only Edit flight line f Quit	Azimuthal projection, the user should use
1-Help F2-Edit	Enter-Movedown Esc-Moveup '+'-Increase '-'-Decrease

Figure 9. Help window.

Run mapper & plot

Plot only

- this runs MAPPER and creates a DesignCAD file from the MAPPER output (see Figure 10).

- this only plots a screen plot file which was previously created during a call to Run mapper & plot (see Figure 10).

- this only creates a DesignCAD file from an already created map projection file. A map projection file occurs if you ran Run mapper & plot prior to this command (see Figure 10).

this runs MAPPER, creates a plot file, and then

Figure 10. Secondary window.

Create database from flight line - this creates a binary map database from a user-defined ASCII file. This ASCII file is in the flight.flt format. To create this binary map database file, the appropriate filename is the Flight line name parameter found under the Primary

category (see Figure 10).

List plot files

- this executes a DOS dir *.tp command to display all screen plot files in the current directory (see Figure 10).

List DC files

- this executes a DOS dir *.dc2 command to display all DesignCAD files in the current directory (see Figure 10).

List flight line files - this executes a DOS dir *.flt command to display

all flight-line files in the current directory (see

Figure 10).

List database files - this executes a DOS dir *.bin command to display

all database files in the current directory (see

Figure 10).

Acknowledgements

I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following people:

Carl Ulbrich of Clemson University, who developed the original BASIC program and database for the Wallops area;

John Cavanaugh of Goddard Space Flight Center, who incorporated the original world database;

Dave Clem of Wallops Flight Facility, whose inspiration, editing, and initial debugging made this set of programs possible;

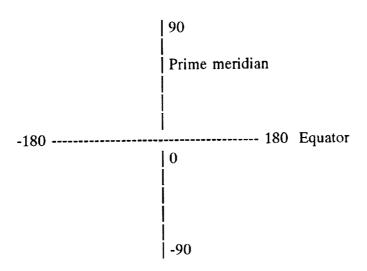
Wayne Wright of Wallops Flight Facility, who sparked my interest in map projections; and

Charles Vaughn of Wallops Flight Facility, whose persistence in finding software bugs inspired me to update MAPPER.

Appendix A

Coordinate System

MAPPER uses a cartesian coordinate system. All parallels north of the Equator are positive and those south, are negative. All meridians west of the prime meridian are negative and those east, are positive.



Appendix B

Explanation of Mapper

MAPPER.EXE is the program that creates map projections. It can be run without the aid of **PROJEC** and is set up like a UNIX system program. All interaction with the program is made on the command line. Here is an example:

mapper -mf world.bin -df wff -g 1 1 -a 37 -75 100

Now...let's dissect this command line.

1.	mapper	This is the name of the mapping program.		
2.	-mf	This is a flag meaning map file . The next parameter is the name of a map database file.		
3.	world.bin	This is the name of the map database you will read in.		
4.	-df	This is a flag meaning data file. The next parameter is the name of the output file.		
5.	wff	This is the name of the data file where your map projection will go.		
6.	-g	This a flag meaning grid. The next two parameters refer to spacing in degrees of the produced map grid.		
7.	1 1	The first 1 refers to latitude spacing, while the second 1 refers to longitude spacing. Zeroes here produce no grid.		
8.	-a	This is the flag defining projection type. In this instance, a means azimuthal. The next three parameters follow this flag.		
9.	37 -75 100	The first number is the center point in latitude. The second number is the center point in longitude. The third number is the range from the center point in nautical miles.		

```
To see the MAPPER help file, type: mapper <ENTER>
```

Enter: mapper [options]

```
= map database filename.
-mf
-df
                    = output filename.
-ff
                    = flight line or new database.
                    = turn grid on with desired accuracy.
      [degrees]
-g
      [window]
                    = mercator projection.
-m
      [window] = lambert projection.
-1
      [window] = sinusoidal projection.
-S
      [window] = cylindrical projection.
-c
      [azimuth] = azimuthal projection.
-a
      window
                    = latmin latmax lonmin lonmax.
      azimuth
                    = lat lon range.
                    = lat lon.
      degrees
```

Examples:

```
mapper -mf world.bin -df wallops -g 1 1 -a 37 -75 100 mapper -mf world.bin -df whole -g 30 30 -s -90 90 -180 180 mapper -mf empty.bin -df grid -g 30 30 -a 0 0 5400 mapper -mf ecost_cr.bin -df wff -ff flight.flt -g 1 1 -a 37 -75 100
```

After producing a map projection, you should view it. I have provided two methods of viewing. The first produces a map on your PC, provided you have CGA, EGA, or VGA capabilities. This utility is helpful when a quick view is needed.

The second method involves exporting your map projection to DesignCAD.

To create a screen plot file and plot, type: rplot filename <ENTER>

To view a plot file already created, type: plot filename <ENTER>

To create a DesignCAD file, type: cplot filename <ENTER>

Now, when you run DesignCAD, retrieve: filename.dc2

Appendix C

General Information

Several steps are involved when producing a map. All steps listed are handled by the PROJEC shell. You should be aware what steps are used in case you want to bypass the PROJEC shell. When making a map, the desired database is searched using the appropriate projection and coordinate information. Running MAPPER.EXE directly will do this. The file created as the Output filename is in a type-length binary format containing various datatypes. When doing screen plots, the program READTYPE.EXE reads this binary file of type-length format and creates an ASCII file (with the .tp extension) which is used by NEWPLOT.EXE. NEWPLOT.EXE can be called directly, but it is easier to use one of the two batch files supplied. RPLOT.BAT is used when binary to ASCII translation is needed. PLOT.BAT is used when an ASCII translated plot file (with a .tp extension) exists and only a screen plot is desired.

When a DesignCAD file is needed, a program called RTYPECAD.EXE is used to convert the binary file of type-length format to an ASCII file in the DesignCAD or .dc2 format. For convenience, use the supplied batch file called CPLOT.BAT. A .dc2 file can be read directly by DesignCAD for further manipulation. Using the DCEXPORT.EXE utility of DesignCAD, other file formats can be created from your .dc2 format. They include IGES, VENTURA (GEM), and POSTSCRIPT. Also, the utility DCPRINT.EXE allows you to output to many printers now on the market. Run the DesignCAD utility DCSETUP.EXE to choose your output devices, including plotters. To plot to a device, you must be in DesignCAD, where you load your .dc2 drawing, and plot.

The directory on which MAPPER resides can become congested after creating just a few maps, screen plots, and DesignCAD files. Erase all files with the .tp and .dc2 extensions if you need more space. As long as you keep the binary projection files (the files with no extensions), these two file types can be regenerated.

Appendix D

Flight-Line Files

Files with the .flt extension are created by you, the user. These files are in ASCII format and represent data you want plotted on your map projection. The following example represents two flight lines which have a break between them. This example can be found in the file FLIGHT.FLT:

37 -75 37 -76 37 -77 # # 34 -75 34.5 -75 35 -75.3 35.5 -75.5 36 -76 # #

Each line represents a point made up of latitude, a space, longitude, and then a hard return. The # # symbols mark the end of a flight line and are absolutely necessary. If your data is one continuous flight line, you only need # # symbols at the end. To represent single data points, repeat coordinates twice followed by the # # symbols. A flight-line file must be created by a text editor or word processor, which does not insert control characters in your text. WORDSTAR (in the non-document mode) and the DOS utility EDLIN will suffice. WORDPERFECT will work only if your file is exported as a DOS text file or a Generic file. For convenience, use the supplied editor found under the Edit flight line file parameter.

When using projections, such as the azimuthal or lambert, lines of latitude and longitude can become curved. This is evident by the grid system you use. Sometimes, geographical boundaries on the map you produce do not properly follow the grid lines as they should. This is no fault of the program. The fault lies in the map database. When using a low-resolution database like World, it is not uncommon for a line (which represents hundreds of miles) to be made up of only two points. This can be found in many of the lines which mark state boundaries. Projections (like the azimuthal and lambert) which make curves cannot make a curve from two points; hence a straight line is drawn. Likewise, when you create flight lines, make them as high a resolution as you can. In other words, make the distance from one point to the next as close as possible. Experiment with this until you have a suitable resolution.

Appendix E

Program Files

	Map projection of Chesapeake Bay " " South Carolina. " " U.S. using azimuthal projection. " " U.S. using cylindrical projection. " " U.S. using lambert projection. " " U.S. using mercator projection. " " U.S. using sinusoidal projection.			
.BAT .BAT	Batch file used to install mapper on hard disk. Batch file that generates cad file. Batch file that plots translated data to screen. Batch file that translates data, then plots to screen.			
.BIN .BIN .BIN .BIN	and buys,			
.TP	All filenames with this extension are translated projection files, used for screen plots.			
.DC2	All filenames with this extension are translated, ASCII maps in the DesignCAD format.			
.FLT	All filenames with this extension are user-generated ASCII files in the lat, lon format.			
.BGI	All filenames with this extension are graphic display setup files needed for screen plots.			
.EXE .EXE .EXE .EXE	The main program. The user-friendly, shell program. Program converts binary map file to DesignCAD file with dc2 extension. Program converts binary map file to ASCII plot file with tp extension. Program reads in plot file with tp extension and plots it to the screen. Program used to convert files with flt extension to map database format of bin extension. Program that strips out variables from binary map projection files.			
	BAT BAT BAT BAT BIN BIN BIN BIN BIN CTP DC2 FLT BGI EXE EXE EXE EXE EXE EXE			

EDIT .EXE Public-domain WordStar-like editor.

MERGEPRO .EXE Program that merges two binary map projection files.

JECTIONS .C This is a C source file which contains functions for all five projections along with preparatory information.

MAPPER .HLP Mapper help file.

Appendix F

Projection Source File

```
/*-----
 * jections.c
 *_____
 * The following functions each generate a map projection when called with
 * the variables lat and lon. These variables correspond to the latitude
 * and longitude in question. Prior to these function calls, a few variables
* need to be defined. These variables are generated when a map projection is
 * created. A program called mapvar.exe is executed afterwards to extract these
 * variables. The projections azimuthal, mercator, cylin, and sinu only
 * require 3 variables to operate. These variables are latmid, lonmid, and
 * fact. Again, they are printed out when the program mapvar.exe is run. The
 * lambert projection requires 7 variables. They are latmid, lonmid,
 * fact, latmdis, base, bangle, and tot. They too are printed when
 * mapvar.exe is run.
* The following functions where written in the C programming language and
* have been slightly altered for readability. The intention of this printout
* is to show the user the structure of each projection. It is his/her job to
* rewrite each projection in the appropriate language. Follow each algorithm
* exactly! They have all been tested and they do work. They make up the heart of
* MAPPER. Good luck!
*_____
*/
/*______
* The following are static global variables needed for the general operation
* of all projections.
*/
double rad = 3.14159265 / 180.0;
                                  /* Converts degrees to radians */
double radius = 3437.746;
                                  /* Radius of Earth at equator */
double add = 250.0;
                                  /* Scaling factor needed to convert */
                                  /* screen coordinates from -250 through 250 */
                                  /* to 0 through 500 */
```

```
/*-----
* The following are global variables needed for the general operation of all
* projections.
*/
                     /* The x component of the final screen coordinate */
double x;
                     /* The y component of the final screen coordinate */
double y;
                     /* Range in nautical miles from initial reference point */
double crange;
                     /* Radius of sphere in nautical miles from given latitude */
double lonrad;
                     /* Temporary storage */
double lattemp;
                     /* Temporary storage */
double lontemp;
 * The following are the variables needed to drive all projections. They
 * must be determined using mapvar.exe before any projection function can
 * be called.
 */
                     /* Center reference point in latitude for each projection */
double latmid;
                     /* Center reference point in longitude for each projection */
double lonmid;
                     /* Factor which converts nautical miles to screen coordinates */
double fact;
double fact;
double latmdis;
                     /* Distance in nautical miles from point above pole to lat. mid. point */
                     /* Distance in nautical miles from Earth center to base triangle point */
double base;
                     /* Angle bet. base and hypotenuse of triangle */
double bangle;
                      /* Distance in nautical miles of hypotenuse */
double tot;
 * The following are macros which need to be defined. They are presented in
 * C fashion.
 */
#define SIGN(x) ((x < 0.0)? -1.0: 1.0) /* Return sign of given 'x' variable */ #define ABS(x) ((x < 0.0)? (x * -1.0): x) /* Return abs. value of 'x' variable */
```

```
azimuthal( lat, lon )
double lat, lon;
{
       static double a,b,c,B,C,tC, cosa, cosb, sina;
       /* Return for polar projection */
       if ( ( lat == latmid ) && ( lon == lonmid ) ) {
        lattemp = 90.0;
        lontemp = 0.0;
        crange = 0.0;
       }
       else {
        if (ABS(latmid)!= 90.0)
                                   /* Arc-length of given point */
          a = 90.0 - latmid;
          a = 90.0 - 89.9999 * SIGN( latmid );
        b = 90.0 - lat;
                                    /* Arc-length of center point */
        C = lon - lonmid;
        if (ABS(C) > 180.0) {
         if (C < 0.0)
           C += 360.0;
          else
            C = 360.0;
        }
        tC = C;
        a *= rad;
        b *= rad;
        C *= rad;
        \cos a = \cos(a);
        cosb = cos(b);
        sina = sin(a);
        c = cosa * cosb + sina * sin(b) * cos(C);
        c = acos(c);
        B = (\cos b - \cos a * \cos(c)) / (\sin a * \sin(c));
```

```
if (B \le -1.0)
          B = 180.0;
        else if (B >= 1.0)
          B = 0.0;
        else {
          B = acos(B);
          B \neq rad;
        }
        if (tC < 0.0)
          B *= -1.0;
        crange = c * radius;
        lontemp = B;
       }
      x = crange * sin( rad * lontemp ) * fact + add;
       y = crange * cos( rad * lontemp ) * fact + add;
}
mercator(lat, lon)
double lat, lon;
       lonrad = radius * cos( rad * lat );
       x = radius * (rad * (lon - lonmid)) * fact + add;
       y = (lonrad * rad) / 60.0;
       y = radius * ( rad * ( lat - latmid ) ) * fact / y + add;
}
```

```
lambert( lat, lon )
double lat, lon;
{
       static double temp;
       temp = base * sin( rad * ABS( lat ) ) / sin( rad * ( 180.0 - bangle - ABS( lat ) ) );
       crange = tot - temp;
      temp = lon - lonmid;
       x = \text{crange } * \sin( \text{ rad } * \text{ temp } ) * \text{ fact } + \text{ add;}
       y = crange * cos( rad * temp );
       y = (latmdis - y) * fact;
       if ( latmid < 0.0 )
                                  /* Must flip for S. hemp. */
        y = (y * -1.0) + add;
       else
        y += add;
}
     */
cylin(lat, lon)
double lat, lon;
         x = radius * (rad * (lon - lonmid)) * fact + add;
          y = ( radius * sin( rad * lat ) - radius * sin( rad * latmid ) ) * fact + add;
}
sinu(lat, lon)
double lat, lon;
       lonrad = radius * cos( rad * lat );
             = lonrad * ( rad * ( lon - lonmid ) ) * fact + add;
            = radius * ( rad * ( lat - latmid ) ) * fact + add;
       y
}
```

Appendix G

Sample Maps

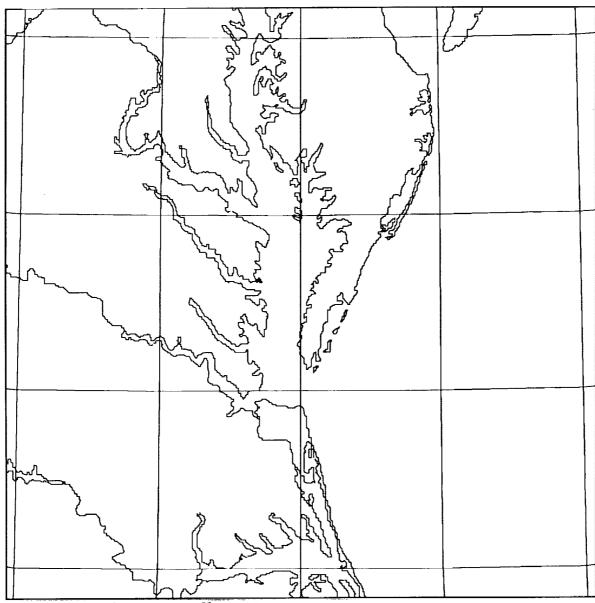


Figure 11.

Map:

Cbay

Database:

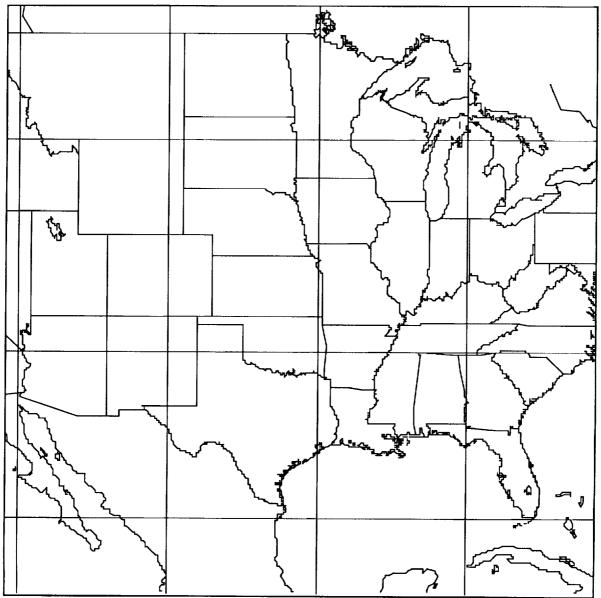
Ecost_cr.bin

Azimuthal

Projection: Coordinates:

37.5 -76 100

Grid:



Map: Figure 12.

Usa_m

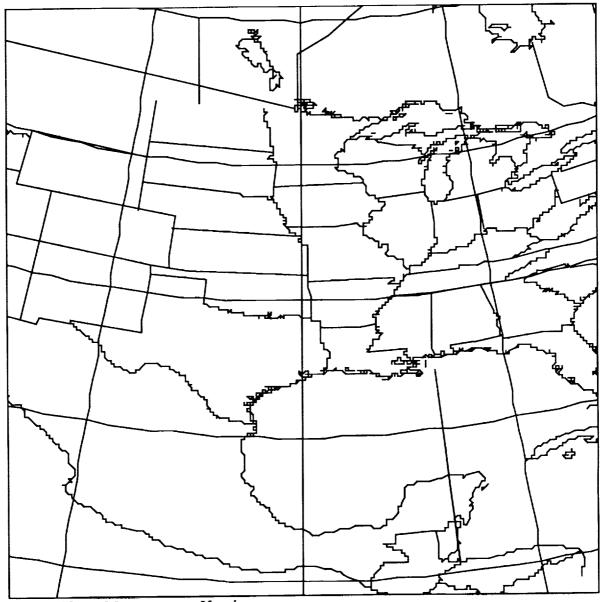
Database:

World.bin

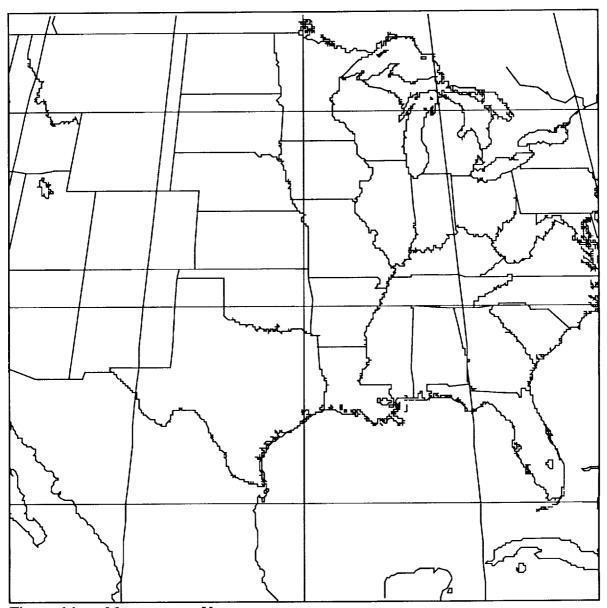
Projection:

Mercator

Coordinates: 20 50 -130 -60 Grid: 10 10



Usa_l World.bin Map: Database: Figure 13. Projection: Coordinates: Grid: Lambert 20 50 -130 -60 10 10



Map: Database: Usa_s World.bin Figure 14. Projection: Coordinates: Grid: Sinusoidal 20 50 -130 -60 10 10

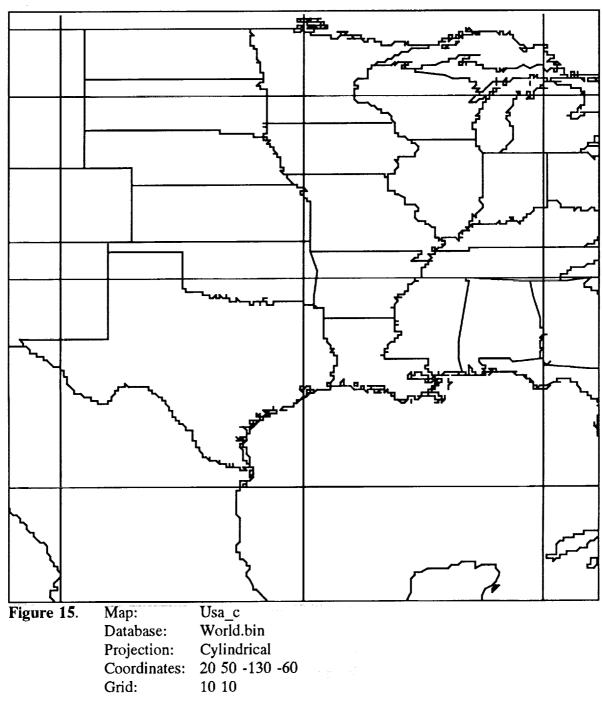


Figure 15.

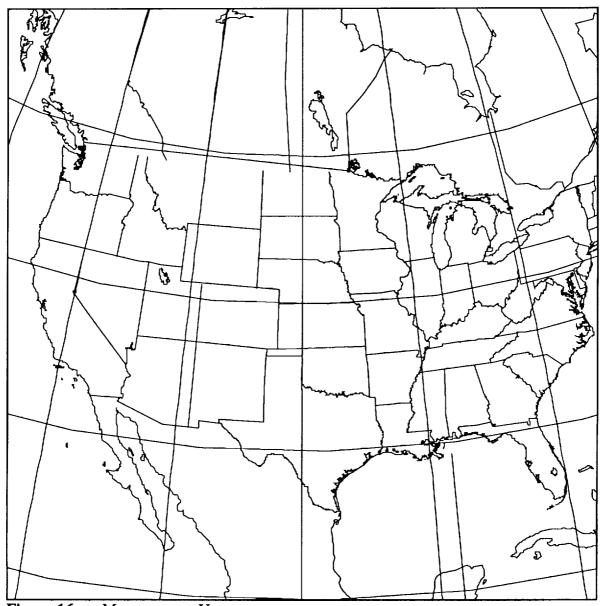


Figure 16. Map: Usa_a
Database: World.bin
Projection: Azimuthal
Coordinates: 40 -100 1200

Grid: 40 -100

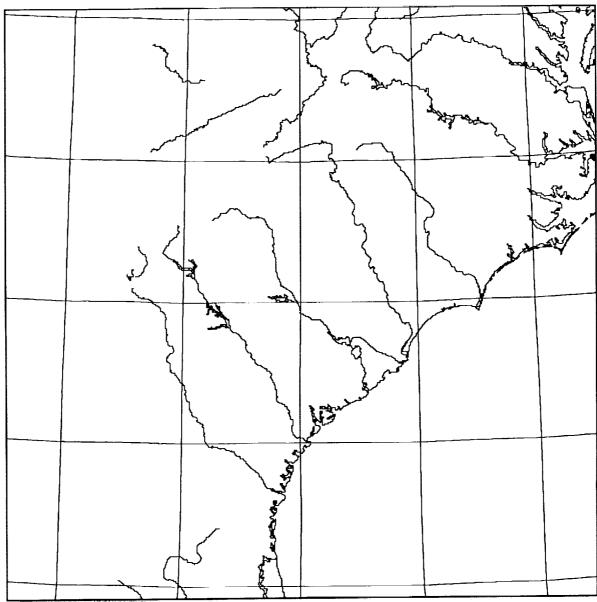


Figure 17. Sc

Map:
Database:
Projection:
Coordinates:
Grid Ecost_cr.bin Azimuthal 34 -81 250

Index

author 2 AUTOEXEC BAT 2 Azimuthal 1, 6-9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26, 31, 32 bearing 6 C. 1, 5, 16, 17, 19-24, 30 CAD 1, 19 cartesian 7, 14 center 6-8, 13, 15, 22, 23 Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cytlindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26, 32 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26, 32 database <t< th=""><th>.bin 13, 19 .dc2 12, 17, 19 .flt 13, 18, 19 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 13 areas 6, 7</th></t<>	.bin 13, 19 .dc2 12, 17, 19 .flt 13, 18, 19 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 13 areas 6, 7
Azimuthal 1, 6-9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26, 31, 32 bearing 6 C. 1, 5, 16, 17, 19-24, 30 CAD 1, 19 cartesian 7, 14 center 6-8, 13, 15, 22, 23 Center latitude 7 Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT BAT 17 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 databases 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design CAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	author
bearing 6 C 1, 5, 16, 17, 19-24, 30 CAD 1, 19 cartesian 7, 14 center 6-8, 13, 15, 22, 23 Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 DCSETUP 16 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 Design Cad 16 Design Cad 6 Design Cad 16 Design Cac 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance<	
CAD 1, 5, 16, 17, 19-24, 30 CAD 1, 19 cartesian 7, 14 center 6-8, 13, 15, 22, 23 Center latitude 7 Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 Design Cad 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 <tr< td=""><td></td></tr<>	
CAD 1, 19 carterisian 7, 14 center 6-8, 13, 15, 22, 23 Center latitude 7 Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 Design Cad 16 Design Cad 6 Design Cad 16 Design Cad 5	
cartesian 7, 14 center 6-8, 13, 15, 22, 23 Center latitude 7 Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18 Colot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 databases 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 Descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 Design CAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19	
Center latitude 7 Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 Design CAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19 Ecost_r <t< td=""><td></td></t<>	
Center longitude 8 CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 7, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 Design CAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_cr 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19, 26, 32	
CGA 16 CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 14 Coordinates 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCPRINT 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 Design Cad 17 dietection 6 distance 5, 19 DoS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c	
CONVERT 17, 19, 21 COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 18 Coordinates 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EOLIN 18 EGA	
COORDINATE SYSTEM 7, 14 Coordinates 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Coordinates 7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26-32 cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EOLIN 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
cplot 16, 17, 19 CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
CPLOT.BAT 17 Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Create database from flight line 5, 12 Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Create DC file only 11 Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Cylindrical 1, 7, 16, 19, 30 database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	Create DC file only
database 5, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15-19, 26-32 databases 1, 4, 18 DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	Cylindrical
DCEXPORT 17 DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cs 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
DCPRINT 17 DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	databases
DCSETUP 17 descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
descriptors 3, 4 Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Design Cad 16 DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
DesignCAD 1, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 direction 6 distance 5, 18, 22 DOS 5, 19 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
direction 6 distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
distance 6, 18, 22 DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_gr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	DesignCAD
DOS 2, 12, 13, 18 Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	distance
Ecost_c 5, 19 Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Ecost_cr 5, 16, 19, 26, 32 Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Ecost_r 5, 19 Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
Edit flight line file 10, 18 EDLIN 18 EGA 16	
EGA	Edit flight line file
EGA 16	
• •	Empty 5, 16, 19

equator	
experiment 1	
EXPLANATION OF MAPPER 1	5
extent	6
F1 3.	4
Figure	
filename	
flight	
FLIGHT LINE FILES	
FLIGHT.FLT 12, 16, 1 FLTOWMAP 1	ð
format	
GENERAL INFORMATION 1	
generate	
globe 6,	7
GRAPHICS	2
grid 5-7, 15, 16, 18, 19, 26-3	2
Help	0
HOME	4
INDEX	
INSTALL	
INSTALLATION	
INTRODUCTION	
keys	
Lambert	
lat	
latitude	
latmax 1	
latmin	
length	
List database files	3
List DC files	2
List plot files	2
lon	
longitude	
lonmax	
lonmin	
map	-
mapper	
Max. latitude	
Max. longitude	
Mercator	
meridian	
Min. latitude 8	3

Min. longitude
navigation
parameter
parameters 3, 4, 10, 15
PgDn
PgUp 4
plot
Plot only
PLOT.BAT
plots
poles 7
PRIMARY 3, 4, 12
program
PROGRAM FILES 19
programs
PROJEC
projection
Quit
range
Range from center 8
READTYPE 17, 19
resolution
rplot
RPLOT.BAT
RTYPECAD
Run mapper & create DC file
Run mapper & plot
SAMPLE MAPS
SCREEN 2-4, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22
SECONDARY 5, 10, 17
SETUP
Sinusoidal
STARTUP 2, 3, 10
temperate
translates
type
USA
Userbase
VGA 16
WordPerfect
WordStar 10, 18, 20
World

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